

cheesecake

THING #2 (2003-J) Fall 1908

AUSTRIA (Stan Johnson) A BOH-Sil, A GAL S A BOH-Sil, A RUM S A GAL,
A UKR-War, A SEV-Mos, A TYO-Mun, A TRI-Tyo, A GRE holds, A SMY Holds,
F AEG S Italian F Ion.

FRANCE (Don Williams) A Lon holds (dislodged. May retreat to Wal, Yor, OTB),
A Gas-SPA, F POR S A Gas-SPA, A PIE-Mar, F Tyr-LYO, F Tun-WES.

GERMANY (Jim O'Kelley) F Spa(sc)-Mar (Mid, OTB), F Nth-LON, F ENG S F Nth-LON,
A Bur-PAR, A Mun-BUR, A BEL S A Mun-BUR, A Sil-MUN, A RUH S A Sil-MUN,
A WAR-Sil, A PRU S A WAR-Sil, A MOS holds, A LVN S A MOS.

ITALY (Mike Quirk) F Ion-TYR, F NAP S F Ion-TYR, A VEN S Austrian A TYO,
A ROM S A VEN.

SUPPLY CENTERS

AUSTRIA (11): Home, Turkey, GRE, Ser, RUM, Bul, SEV - took SMY - may build one.

FRANCE (4): Mar, SPA, Tun, POR - lost Bel, Lon, Par; took POR - remove two.

GERMANY (16): Home, England, Den, Swe, Nwy, Bre, StP, Hol, MOS, WAR, BEL,
PAR - lost Por; took BEL, PAR, LON - entitled to build four, but has room for two.

ITALY (3): Home - lost Smy - remove one.

PRESS VIENNA - PARIS: That's piss poor play, even by your standards, Duck.

VIENNA - PARIS: You are a fool to believe Germany's promises; his sister will never go along with it.

The deadline for Winter 1908 and Spring 1909 is May 3.

GIN (2001-H) Winter 1913 & Spring 1914

ENGLAND (Mike Lowrey) Build A LON, F LPL; A RUM S A GAL, A GAL S A RUM,
A UKR S A RUM, A SEV S A RUM, A MOS S A SEV, A War-SIL, F Bal-KIE, A Ber-Mun (no
such army), A RUH S A Ber-Mun, F BER holds, A BEL-Bur, A Lon-WAL, F Lpl-IRI,
F Nth-ENG, F Nwg-NAT, F Bar-NWG.

FRANCE (Joe Brooks) A GRE-Bul, A SER S A GRE-Bul, A TRI S A SER, F ION-Gre,
A ALB S F ION-Gre, F APU-Ion, F NAP S F APU-Ion, F ADR S F APU-Ion,
F TYR S F APU-Ion, A BUR S A MUN, A MUN S A BUR, A VIE S Russian A BUD,
A TYO S A VIE, A Ven-PIE.

RUSSIA (Fred Weidemeyer) A BUD S English A GAL-Rum.

TURKEY (Jim O'Kelley) Retreat A Sev-ARM; remove F Bla; A ARM-Sev, F BUL(sc)-Gre,
F AEG S F BUL(sc)-Gre, F EAS-Ion.

PRESS TURKEY TO BOARD: I think my mailbox might be broken.

The proposed ET draw and concession to France both failed. Please vote now on E, EF, and F proposals with your Fall 1914 orders, which are due May 3.

THING #1 (2003-I) Winter 1907 & Spring 1908

AUSTRIA (Joe Brooks) Retreat A Bul-SER; A Ser-BUL, F CON S A Ser-BUL,
A TRI-Vie, A BUD S A TRI-Vie, A Rum S A BUD (dislodged. May retreat to Ser or OTB).

FRANCE (Fred Wiedemeyer) F LPL holds, A BRE holds, A POR S A SPA,
A SPA S A POR, A Tus-Rom (Pie or OTB), F LYO S A Tus-Rom (impossible).

GERMANY (Craig Cowley) Build A MUN; F NWY holds, A YOR holds, F ENG holds,
F Wes-TUN, A NAF S F Wes-TUN, F Mid-WES, A Vie-TYO, A MUN S A Vie-TYO,
A BOH-Vie, A SIL holds, A RUH holds.

ITALY (Andy York) Retreat F Tus-ROM; F TYR-Lyo, F Rom-TUS,
A VEN S F Rom-TUS, A Tyo-Mun (Pie or OTB), A SMY-Ank.

RUSSIA (Paul Rauterberg) F Arm-SEV, A Bul-RUM, F BLA S A Bul-RUM,
A UKR S A Bul-RUM, A GAL-Bud.

TURKEY (Brendan Mooney) A ANK-Con.

The GIR draw proposal did not pass. May 3 is the date by which F'08 orders are due.

GIANT YELLOWKNIFE (2005-D) Winter 1903 & Spring 1904

AUSTRIA (Eric Verheiden) A TRI S Turkish A Bud-Vie.

ENGLAND (Fred Wiedemeyer) F Nth-HEL, A YOR-Lon, F BEL-Hol.

FRANCE (Mike Quirk) A Gas S A MAR (dislodged. May retreat to Spa or OTB),
A MAR S A Gas, F MID S A Gas.

GERMANY (Stan Johnson) Build F KIE; A BUR-Mar, A Par-GAS, A BRE S A Par-GAS,
F ENG-Mid, F Den-NTH, F LON S F Den-NTH, F KIE-Hol, A Sil-MUN.

ITALY (Brendan Mooney) A VEN S Austrian A TRI, F Apu-ADR, A Tun-ALB,
F ION C A Tun-ALB.

RUSSIA (Cary Nichols) A Gal-BUD, A VIE S A Gal-BUD, A TYO S A VIE, F RUM-Bul(ec),
F BLA S F RUM-Bul(ec), A Mos-UKR, F SWE S A NWY, A NWY S F SWE.

TURKEY (Ken Iverson) Build F ANK; A Bud-Vie (annihilated), A Alb-SER, F Bul(sc)-GRE,
F AEG S F Bul(sc)-GRE, A CON-Bul, F Smy-EAS, F ANK-Bla.

The French retreat, and Fall 1904 orders are due by May 3.

CAMPBELL CHIBOUGAMAU (2005-C) Winter 1903 only, request by Ken

AUSTRIA (Paul Milewski) Has As GRE, TYO, BOH, GAL, F AEG; controls home, GRE,
Ser.

ENGLAND (Don Williams) Build F EDI, F LON; has A PAR, Fs BRE, ENG, NWY, NTH,
EDI, LON; controls home, Bel, NWY, BRE, PAR.

GERMANY (Ken Iverson) Build A BER, A MUN; has As POR, BUR, KIE, BER, MUN, Fs
SWE, DEN; controls home, DEN, Hol, POR, SWE.

ITALY (Craig Cowley) Build F NAP; has As VEN, MAR, Fs SPA(sc), WES, NAP;
controls home, MAR, SPA.

RUSSIA (Andy York) Retreat F Swe-FIN; build F SEV; has As SIL, UKR, ANK, SMY,
BUL, Fs FIN, STP(sc), CON, SEV; controls home, TURKEY, Rum, BUL.

TURKEY (Mark Fassio) Has F TUN; controls TUN.

PRESS AN UNDISCLOSED LOCATION IN GASCONY: From 5 to 0 in one season:
Only us Frenchmen could accomplish such an amazing feat. Can our enemies now
peacefully co-exist upon French soil? I think not.

May 3 is the new Spring 1904 deadline.

DIPLOMACY AT JIM O'KELLEY'S

Briefly, on Sunday, the 12th, I again went to Jim O'Kelley's house to play *Diplomacy* and I got creamed.

Jim had 14 players on two boards, and I was randomly assigned Russia on Board 2. I opened 1901 with A War-Sil because I didn't feel like pussy-footing and because I am stupid. France (Greg Riedel) joined my anti-Germany campaign, and so did Italy (Ted Torgerson), but England (Bryan Westhoff) - who could have smashed Germany - was talked into an anti-*me* alliance by my back stabbing ally Turkey (Marc Peters).

So my grand alliance desolved as Marc reorchestrated things and Turkey, Austria, England and Germany came after me while Turkey, Austria and France went after Italy. I lasted through 1907 and barely outlived Italy, through lucky retreats of my last unit: War to Pru, Pru to Ber, Ber to Mun, Mun to Tyo.

By the end of S'07, I'd become irrelevant and apparently invisible. As the other players went from room to room working out tactics, stabs and strategies, I sat at the board twiddling my thumbs. France and Austria had just allied, and they approached the board together and Austria said to France, "I can't afford to lose Venice, but if you order A Pie-Ven and I order A Tri-Ven, we'll bounce, covering Venice without risking losing Trieste." "Good idea," said France, and they both began writing orders.

Annoyed at being nonexistent, I spoke, "Yeah, good idea. I wonder which of you two my A Tyo will support into Venice." "Oh," said France. Suddenly I was visible.

But being visible didn't help me survive. Germany sat in *my* Munich and I could not replace the center, so instead I bounced France over Venice, allowing Austria to face the rampaging Turkey, and then *poof*, I was gone.

Just before my elimination, England had stabbed Germany and Turkey had stabbed Austria, and soon Germany and Austria were also poofed. In 1909 it was Turkey 13, England 12 and France 9 with England starting to work with France to stop Marc. At the end of 1910 Turkey had 16, England 11 and France 7, but England and France were close to establishing a stalemate line.

The game was at a crucial point, and as everyone gathered around the board there was open speculation as to whether England/France could stop Turkey. The ex-Austrian, Mike Roth, looked over at me and said, "Andy, what do you think?" I wanted to say, "If England orders A Fin-Stp with Nwy supporting and F Bot-Bal, Turkey will take Tunis next year but not Berlin and will be stopped forever at 17," but such kibitzing from a dead player is crummy, so I just shrugged my shoulders.

And England ordered F Bot-StP with Nwy supporting and A Fin-Swe, and Turkey took Tunis and Berlin and won.

It was an enjoyable game, and well played by everyone but me. Marc made not one mistake that I saw, yet *just* managed the solo win because of the only mistake I saw Bryan make. Good game.

Another game was played as well, on Board 1 in the next room.

Jim was Germany, Chris Davis was Austria, Nick Rohn - who I'd met at Jim's in November - was England, Christian Kline was France, Thom Comstock - a novice - was Italy, Jason Raynovich from November was Russia, and Chris Young - a fellow Mini driver - was Turkey. Also in attendance, sort of, was a woman's voice on Jim's computer which audibly counted down the deadlines as the seconds ticked off on the screen: "15 minutes." "10 minutes." "5 minutes." "2 minutes." "1 minute." "45 seconds." "30 seconds." "15 seconds." "10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 0." Her accent reminded me of Twiggy, who I have always had a crush on.

Anyway, as I occasionally looked in, this game seemed less methodical than Board 2. When we were down to three players, they still had six. When our game had ended and I left for home, I believe that England and France on Board 1 each had 10 centers, while Jim had 2 and Turkey 3, with Austria and Russia sharing 9. The original Turk had left early, so Alex Riedel, the harried German from my game, took over. I learned the next day that over the next two hours Alex had worked Turkey up to 11 centers and shared in an England/France/Turkey draw.

At the top of this page, did I say briefly? Thanks, Jim.

BOOK REVIEW - LOLITA

I expected *Lolita* to be lively, funny and slightly twisted, and found it to be lively, funny and slightly sick. It is also compelling, although I wish I had a less *NPRish* word.

The narrator/protagonist, Humbert Humbert, is a middle-aged man obsessed with pre-teen girls, who ends up marrying Lolita's mother to be near Lolita. I won't tell any more of the story, so as not to ruin it, but it is funny, engaging (another *NPR* word), unexpected and sometimes repulsive. I don't think I would call this pornography but sometimes when Humbert Humbert is describing his attraction toward girls, and I realized he was talking about 11 year olds, I felt like closing the book, putting it in a paper bag and putting the bag out in the garage.

But as the reviewer on the radio who prompted me to read the book said, remember that it's a story about obsession, not pedophilia. Humbert Humbert is a creep, and portrayed as a creep, and pedophilia is not promoted.

But, the pedophilia is there, so if you don't want to read *Lolita*, don't. If you do read it, skip any introductory notes: they will probably ruin the story, however, skip the *Forward*, which is the actual beginning of the novel.

WAIT WAIT...

Speaking of *NPR*, my sister bought tickets to the Thursday, February 9th taping of the Saturday, February 11th edition of the radio show *Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me!* This is a tongue-in-cheek news quiz show on *National Public Radio*, which means that you also paid for my ticket. Thanks!

Not being a fan of *NPR*, because I detest jazz bumper music, I nevertheless enjoyed the taping and now regularly listen to the show. In Chicago it airs at 10 am Saturdays, and 9 pm Sundays.

STAMPS

Joining the Studabaker, Thunderbird, Kaiser Darrin, Corvette and Nash Healey of the '50's *Sporty Cars*, are blue birds on a yellow background, colorful cartoon animals from children's books, more colorful animals on Chinese New Year stamps, and Hattie McDaniel on *Black Heritage* stamps.

GAME OPENINGS

I will open as many new *Diplomacy* games as fill in a reasonable time. No game fees, six week deadlines, normal *Cheesecake* houserules. If you are interested, please send a preference list.

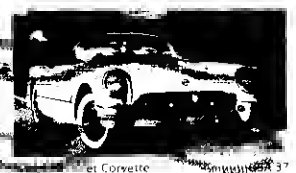
Other publishers, please mention these openings, as I would like to get some new players.

INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Time flies like an arrow, but fruit flies like a melon.

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